

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method of splicing weatherstripping including a sealing element and a backing element, the method comprising:
 - cutting a portion of the sealing element from a first piece of weatherstripping, leaving an exposed portion of the backing element;
 - overlapping the exposed portion of the backing element with a backing element of a second piece of weatherstripping; and
 - ultrasonically joining the exposed portion of the backing element of the first piece of weatherstripping to the backing element of the second piece of weatherstripping.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the exposed portion of the backing element of the first piece of weatherstripping is pressed against the backing element of the second piece of weatherstripping while ultrasonically joining the two pieces of weatherstripping.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the cutting step further comprises cutting the exposed portion of the backing element at an angle.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the cutting step further comprises cutting the exposed portion of the backing element in a V-shape.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the cutting step comprises:
 - inserting the first piece of weatherstripping into an apparatus; and
 - actuating a blade to cut a portion of the sealing element.
6. (Currently amended) An apparatus for cutting weatherstripping comprising a sealing element and a backing element, the apparatus comprising:
 - a base for receiving one end of the weatherstripping, and
 - a blade moveably coupled to the base for ~~cutting~~ longitudinally shaving a portion of the sealing element from the weatherstripping.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the blade is coupled to a handle rotatably mounted to the base.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising a track disposed on the base for receiving weatherstripping.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising a stop disposed on the base for limiting a length of weatherstripping received by the base.

10. (Currently amended) An apparatus for joining pieces of weatherstripping, the apparatus comprising:

a base including a channel for receiving a first piece of weatherstripping at one end and a second piece of weatherstripping at an opposite end, wherein the first and second pieces of weatherstripping slide relative to each other along the channel ~~are~~ into linearly partially overlapping contact at at least one point, wherein the base is adapted to cooperate with an ultrasonic welder for joining the first piece of weatherstripping and the second piece of weatherstripping at the point of overlapping contact.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising clamps attached to the base for holding the first piece of weatherstripping and the second piece of weatherstripping in place.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the base comprises two pieces with one piece slideably disposed relative to the other piece.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising means for pressing the first piece of weatherstripping and the second piece of weatherstripping together at the point of the overlapping contact.

14. (Currently Amended) A device for joining two pieces of weatherstripping comprising:

a first apparatus for receiving a first piece of weatherstripping and ~~cutting~~ longitudinally shaving a predetermined amount of a portion of a sealing element from the first piece of weatherstripping; and

a second apparatus for ultrasonically joining the first piece of weatherstripping and a second piece of weatherstripping in a linearly partially overlapping configuration.

15. Cancelled

16. (New) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the blade is adapted to shave a variable predetermined thickness of the sealing element from the weatherstripping.
17. (New) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the blade removes substantially an entire thickness of the sealing element at one end of the weatherstripping, leaving an exposed portion of the backing element.
18. (New) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the blade is adapted to shave both an entire thickness of the sealing element and a variable predetermined thickness of the backing element from the weatherstripping.
19. (New) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the blade travels substantially parallel to a longitudinal extent of the weatherstripping.